

"The need for quality health care doesn't stop when you lose your job or your insurance," said Rep. Melancon. "Community health centers like the Teche Action Clinic and the Pierre Part Health Center serve as an important safety net for many south Louisianians. Funding from the economic recovery bill will help them provide affordable health care to more people in our community, reducing the need for expensive emergency room visits and creating a healthier population overall."

Federally qualified health centers (FQHC) like the Teche Action Clinic and the Pierre Part Health Center deliver preventive and primary care services to patients regardless of their ability to pay. FQHCs in Louisiana have been awarded over \$13.5 million in federal grants thus far from the Recovery Act, allowing them to better provide primary health care to an estimated 48,870 uninsured and underinsured Louisianians. Charges for services are set according to income, and only nominal fees are collected from the neediest patients. Nationally, about 39% of health center patients have no health insurance at all.

The Recovery Act provided \$1.3 million for the Pierre Part Health Center to become a FQHC, which enabled them to join the Teche Action Network. Being designated an FQHC makes the clinic eligible for additional federal funding to treat uninsured and underinsured Louisianians. The Teche Action Clinic was also awarded over \$70,000 through the Recovery Act to expand their services in the community.

Tour of Pierre Part Health Center

When: 8:00 a.m., Monday, May 11th

Where: 3617 Highway 70 South
Pierre Part, Louisiana

Tour of Teche Action Clinic

When: 10:30 a.m., Monday, May 11th

Where: 1115 Weber Street
Franklin, Louisiana